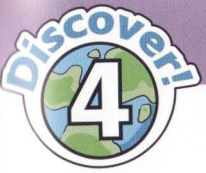
Discover! 4

Oxford Read and Discover

Why We Recycle



Oxford Read and Discover

Why We Recycle

Fiona Undrill

Contents

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Introduction

We all make a lot of waste. There's waste from our homes, factories, offices, and schools. We recycle a lot of our waste materials, but we should recycle more. Do you know why?

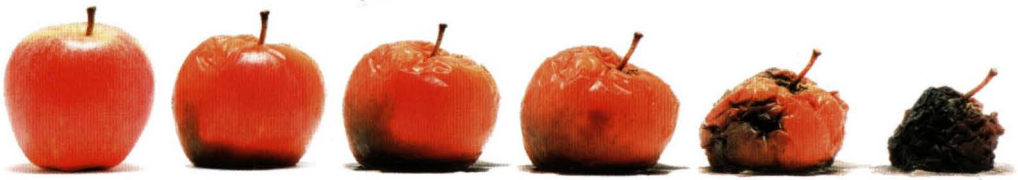
What do you throw away?
What is your waste made of?
What waste materials do you recycle?

Now read and discover more about why we recycle waste!

1 Too Much Waste

In some countries, one person can make about 5 kilograms of waste every day! Where does all this waste go? Most waste goes to a landfill. At a landfill, people put the waste under the ground. Landfills are very big because we make so much waste.

A Landfill



An Apple Decomposing

Most waste materials decompose – they break down into very small pieces. Food waste decomposes fast, but some waste materials decompose slowly. Paper materials take from two to five months to decompose, some metal materials take from 80 to 100 years, and plastic materials take maybe up to 1,000 years. Some materials, like glass, never decompose.

We are making more and more waste. We need more landfills, but there's no more land on Earth for landfills. Our waste stays in landfills for too long, and this is bad for Earth. So we should make less waste – we should recycle more things.

Go to pages 24–25 for activities.

2 Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

Fixing a Skateboard

We should put less waste in landfills. We can help to do this when we reduce, reuse, and recycle our waste. When we reduce our waste, we make less waste. We can help to do this when we only buy things that we really need. We can also borrow things, or fix things when they break. When we don't buy so many things, we reduce waste.

When we reuse something, we use it again. When we buy a bottle of water, we can put more water in the bottle when we finish it – we don't need to buy a new bottle.

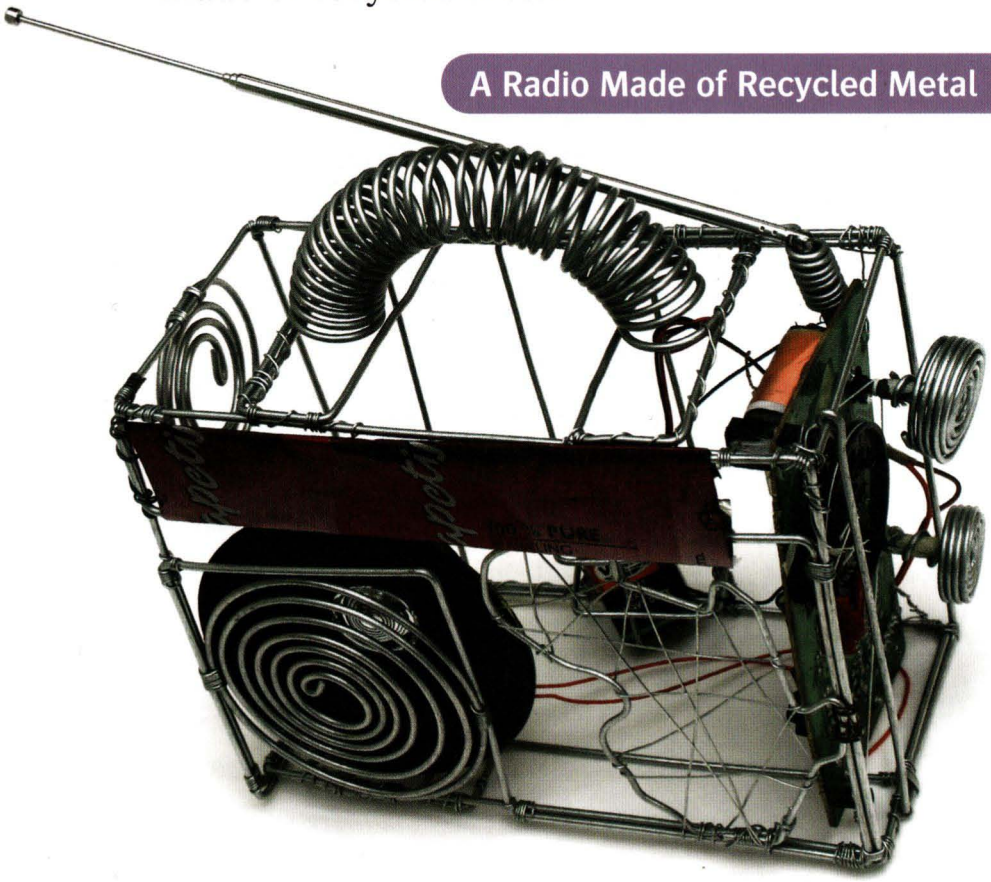
Discover!

We should reuse our plastic bags. Around the world, people use about one million plastic bags every day – we usually use one bag for only about 12 minutes!

When we recycle something, we use it to make something new. We can recycle most glass, paper, and metal. We can recycle some plastic.

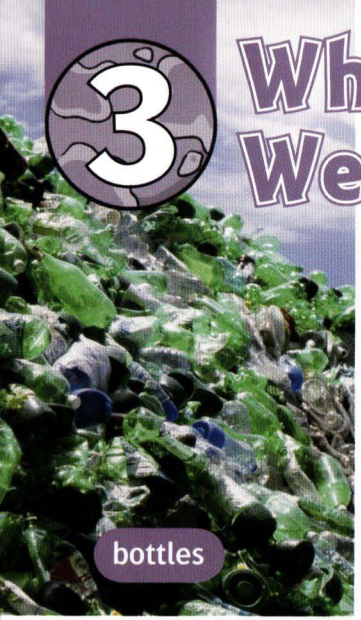
We can recycle things to make more of the same thing, for example, we can recycle paper to make new paper. We can also make something different, like this radio that's made of recycled metal.

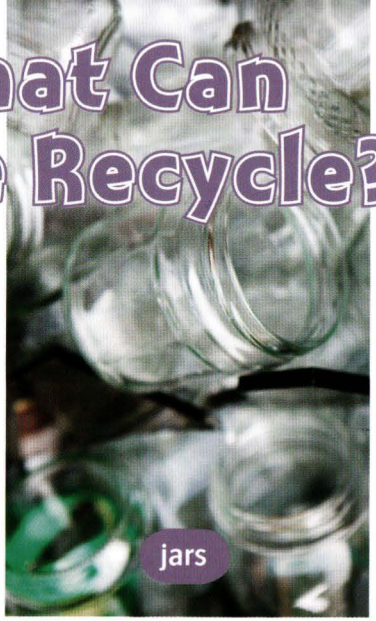
A Radio Made of Recycled Metal

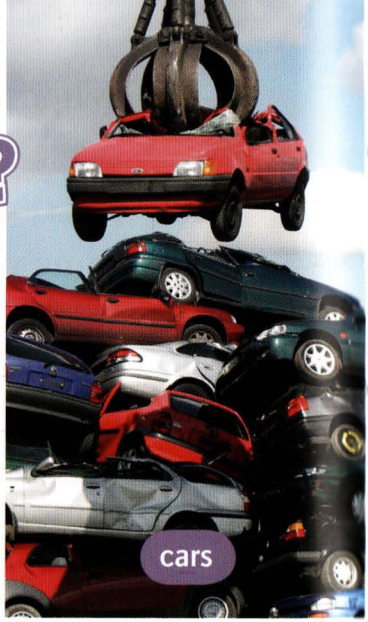


Go to pages 26–27 for activities.

3 What Can We Recycle?







We can recycle most things – clothes, shoes, phones, computers, televisions, cars, cans, paper, bottles, and batteries. There are a few things that we can't recycle – but not many!

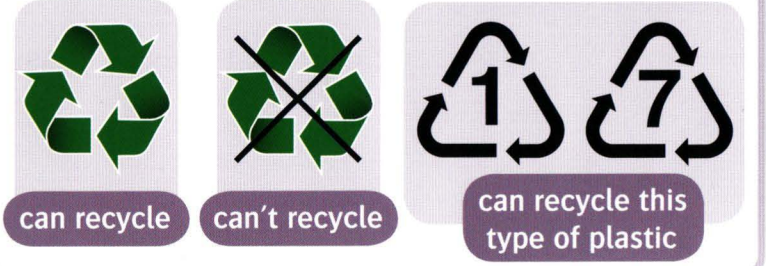
We can recycle most paper and card to make new paper. We can recycle metal from many different things, like cans, cars, and computers. It's hard to get new metal, so it's good to recycle old metal.

We can recycle most types of glass. It's good to sort the glass into different colors – green, brown, and clear glass. Factories can only make new clear glass when 99% of the recycled glass is clear.

There's a recycling symbol on a lot of the things that we can recycle. There's sometimes a symbol on the things that we can't recycle.

We have to recycle different types of plastic in different ways. The recycling symbols on plastic help people to sort the different types of plastic.

Recycling Symbols



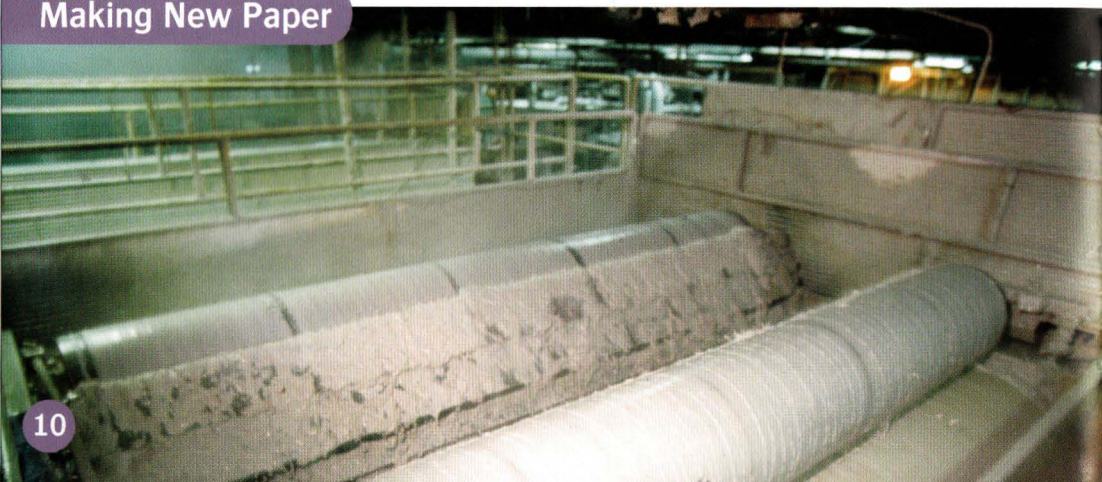
Go to pages 28–29 for activities.

Paper

Paper is made from trees, so when we recycle used paper to make new paper, we save trees. Our used paper goes to a paper recycling factory. Here, machines cut the paper and put the pieces in water. This makes the paper into fibers. Then, machines wash the fibers to take out things like staples and glue.

Next, machines put in soap and they blow air through the water and fibers. This makes bubbles. Ink stays on the bubbles, and machines take out the inky bubbles to make the fibers clean. Then machines use the fibers to make new paper.

Making New Paper



Every time we recycle paper, the fibers get smaller and weaker, and then they are not so good for making new paper. This means that we can only recycle paper from four to six times. So we will always need some new trees to make paper.

Discover!

In seven days, we can get a new newspaper from a recycled newspaper!

Go to pages 30–31 for activities.

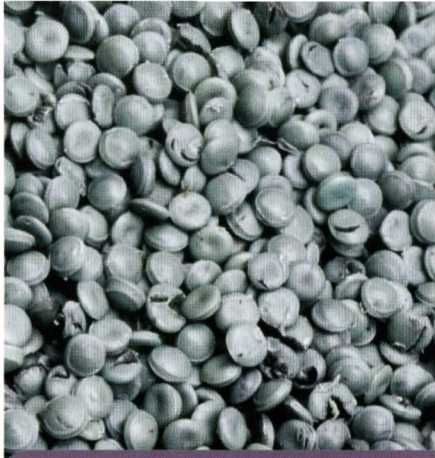
5 Plastic

Plastic For Sorting

Plastic is newer than a lot of other materials. No one really knows how long it takes to decompose – maybe up to 1,000 years. Around the world, people make more than 200 million metric tons of plastic every year. All this plastic is probably still on Earth!

We don't recycle much plastic because it's hard to sort the different types of plastic, and there aren't many factories that recycle plastic. We can recycle plastic from bottles, and from parts of refrigerators and cars.

People sort the different types of plastic, and then they take them to a plastic recycling factory.



Recycled Plastic Pellets

Different factories recycle different types of plastic. At the factory, machines clean the plastic and cut it into small pieces. Other machines melt the plastic and clean it again. Then, machines cut this clean plastic into small pellets. Other factories use these pellets to make new plastic things.

We can use recycled plastic to make phones, clothes, chairs, toys – and much more!

Fleece Fabric Made of Recycled Plastic

Discover!

About 25 big plastic bottles can make one fleece jacket!

Go to pages 32–33 for activities.

Glass

Glass is one of the best materials for recycling because we can recycle it again and again. We use most recycled glass to make new glass things, like glass bottles. Sometimes, we can see it in buildings because we can use recycled glass to make walls and windows.

Recycled Glass on Walls

Melted Glass

Glass is made from sand. To make glass, people make sand very, very hot so that it melts. Recycled glass doesn't have to get so hot to melt. So it's good to make new glass from recycled glass, because we save energy.

At a glass recycling factory, people sort the glass into different colors. Then, machines break the glass into small pieces. Other machines clean the glass – magnets take out any metal, and air blows off any plastic and paper. Then the glass is made into much smaller pieces. Other factories melt the very small pieces of glass to make new glass things.

Go to pages 34–35 for activities.

7 Metal

Metal for Recycling

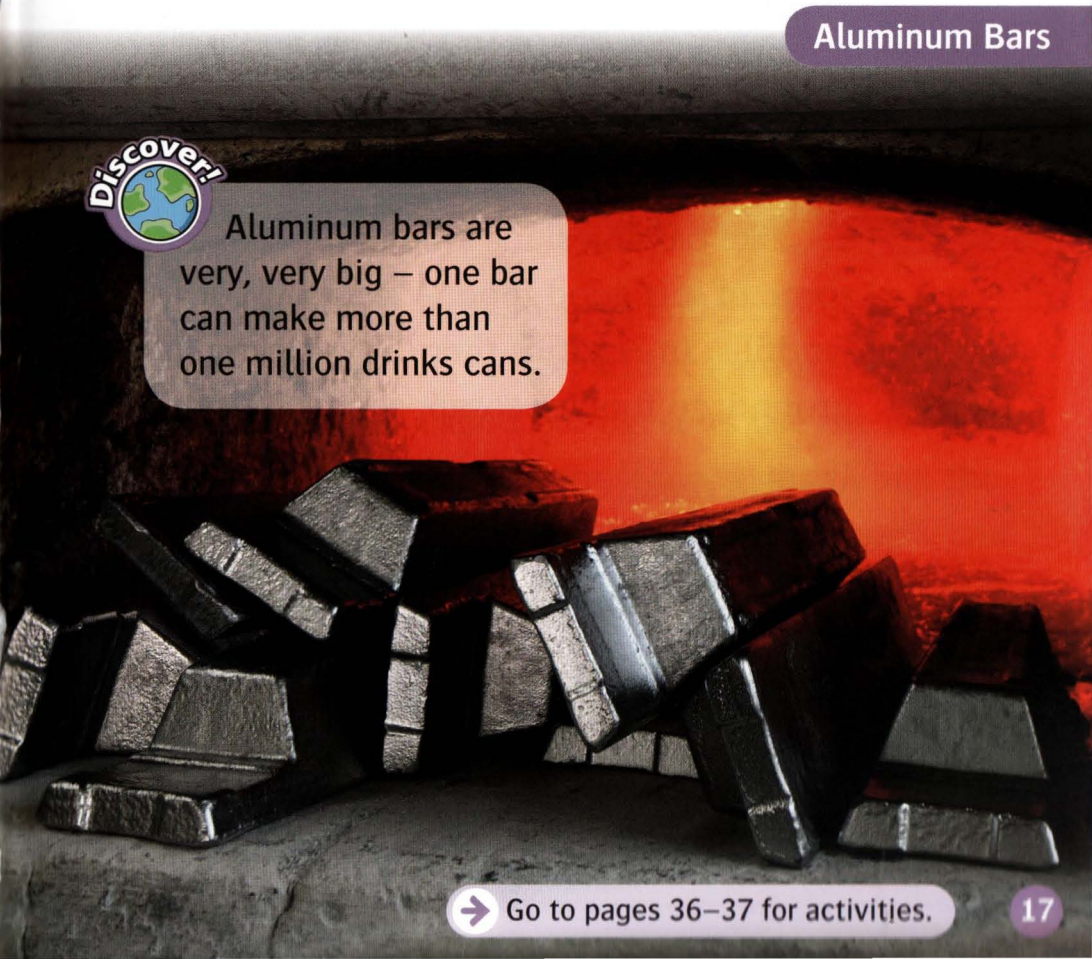
There are lots of different metals and they all come from rocks. To get most metals out of rocks, people have to use machines to make the rocks very, very hot. The machines use a lot of energy. It's good to recycle metals because we save this energy. Metal is a good material to recycle because we can recycle it again and again.

Aluminum in Rock

We can recycle all metals, but we recycle different metals in different ways. Let's look at aluminum.

Aluminum is the metal in most drinks cans. It's also in planes, cars, bicycles, computers, buildings, and things that we cook with!

At the recycling factory, machines cut the waste aluminum into small pieces. Then, very hot air blows off all the words and pictures on the metal. Next, machines melt the metal and make bars. Other factories melt these bars to make new metal things.



Go to pages 36–37 for activities.

8 Food Waste

banana skin

egg shell

What do you do with the food that you don't eat? In some countries, people throw away billions of metric tons of food waste every year. Some of it is food that we can't eat, like banana skins and egg shells, but some of it is good food. Most of it goes to landfills. In landfills there's no air under the ground, so food decomposes very slowly.

We can make compost with some of our food waste. We can do this at home – the compost helps plants to grow in the garden.

Discover!

In a compost bin, worms eat the waste and make it into compost.

A Biodigester

In many places, people collect food waste from homes, stores, and restaurants. Machines called biodigesters use the food waste to make compost for farms. When the food decomposes, it makes a gas. People can use this gas to cook with, or to make electricity.

We can reduce waste and save money when we only buy food that we need. We should think carefully about what food we need to buy, so that we don't waste it.

Go to pages 38–39 for activities.

9 Problems for Earth

Pollution makes land, air, and water dirty. Factories make pollution, and landfills make pollution, too. Polluted air and water can make people and animals sick.

People throw some waste onto the ground or into rivers. This waste makes more pollution and more problems. Polluted rivers can kill the plants and animals that live there.

A Polluted River

All around the world, people make lots of new things every day. We need materials like paper and plastic to make these things. Paper is made from trees. Plastic is usually made from oil. Many factories use oil for the energy that they need to make machines work, or to make things very hot. Earth gives us trees and oil. We need to use them carefully, so that we can have them in the future.

We are making too many new things, and using too many materials. We are also making too much waste. We can't live like this forever. We are making too many problems for Earth.

Go to pages 40–41 for activities.

What Can You Do?

You can do a lot of things – every little thing helps! You can reduce your waste. Don't buy too many new things. Do you really need a new computer game? Can you borrow one from a friend? Fix things when they break.

You can reuse and recycle your waste. Make things from waste! Look at your waste and see what you can do with it. On the Internet, you can find lots of great ideas, for example, how to make games, clothes, and bags.

Lanterns Made From Waste

Picking Up Waste for Recycling

Recycling can be easy! At home, you can use recycling boxes. Or maybe you can use different wastebaskets for different types of waste. At school, you can recycle lots of things, too. When you are outside, you can pick up waste for recycling, but be careful – don't pick up dangerous waste.

Remember! We should all reduce, reuse, and recycle our waste!

Go to pages 42–43 for activities.

1 Too Much Waste

Read pages 4–5.

1 Circle the correct words.

1 In some **countries** / **landfills**, one person can make about **five** / **fifteen** kilograms of waste every **year** / **day**.

2 Landfills are very **big** / **small**.

3 Food waste decomposes **slowly** / **fast**.

4 Metal materials decompose **slowly** / **fast**.

5 Glass materials **always** / **never** decompose.

6 We should make **more** / **less** waste.

2 Match.

Waste

1  2  3  4 

Material

glass paper plastic some metals

Time to Decompose

from 2 to 5 months up to 1,000 years

from 80 to 100 years never

3 Complete the sentences.

waste never less ~~landfill~~
months 5 kilograms years waste

1 Most waste goes to a landfill .
2 Landfills are very big because we make so much _____ .
3 One person can make about _____ of waste every day.
4 Food _____ decomposes fast.
5 Some materials _____ decompose.
6 Paper materials take from two to five _____ to decompose.
7 Some metal materials take from 80 to 100 _____ to decompose.
8 We should make _____ waste.

4 What waste do you throw away?

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

2 Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

Read pages 6–7.

1 Match. Then write sentences.

When we reduce our waste,	we use it again.
When we reuse our waste,	we use it to make something new.
When we recycle our waste,	put less waste in landfills.
We should	when they break.
We can fix things	we make less waste.

1 When we reduce our waste, we make less waste.

2 _____

3 _____

4 _____

5 _____

2 Write *true* or *false*.

1 People should put more waste in landfills. false

2 It's good to fix things when they break. _____

3 We can recycle most glass, paper, and metal. _____

4 We usually use one plastic bag for about a week. _____

3 Complete the sentences.

use reduce reuse recycle

1 We should reduce, _____, and recycle our waste.

2 When we make less waste, we _____ our waste.

3 When we _____ things, we use them to make something new.

4 Around the world, people _____ one million plastic bags every day.

4 Find and write the words. Then write the odd one out.

recyclereusereducewastelandfill

elephantglassmetalplasticpaper

1	recycle	5	_____	9	_____
2	_____	6	_____	10	_____
3	_____	7	_____		
4	_____	8	_____		

The odd one out is: _____

5 Write ✓ or ✗.

At home, we recycle things made of:

paper ☐ glass ☐ plastic ☐ metal ☐

3 What Can We Recycle?

Read pages 8–9.

1 Write the words.

clothes ~~batteries~~ computer
television cans shoes

1 batteries

2 _____

3 _____

4 _____

5 _____

6 _____

2 Circle the correct words.

1 There's a recycling symbol on a lot of the things that we can **recycle** / **reuse**.

2 Factories can only make new clear glass when 99% of the recycled glass is **green** / **clear**.

3 We can recycle metal from **many** / **some** different things.

4 Recycling **symbols** / **landfills** help people to sort the different types of plastic.

3 Complete the sentences.

colors glass recycle good plastic cars new

1 There's a recycling symbol on a lot of the things that we can _____.

2 We can recycle most paper and card to make _____ paper.

3 We can recycle most types of _____.

4 When we recycle glass, it's good to sort it into different _____.

5 We have to recycle different types of _____ in different ways.

6 It's _____ to recycle old metal.

7 We can recycle metal from cans, _____, and computers.

4 Answer the questions.

1 What is on a lot of the things that we can recycle?

There's a recycling symbol.

2 What metal things can we recycle?

_____

3 Can we recycle everything?

_____

4 Paper

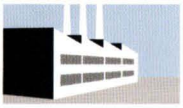
Read pages 10–11.

paper recycling factory
newspaper factory
newspaper

1 Write the words.

1 _____

2 _____



3 _____

2 Find and write the words.

paperfactorymachinesfibersinkgluestaplestreessoapair

1 _____ 5 _____ 9 _____

2 _____ 6 _____ 10 _____

3 _____ 7 _____

4 _____ 8 _____

3 Write *true* or *false*.

1 Paper is made from sand. _____

2 When we recycle paper, we save trees. _____

3 We can get a new newspaper from a recycled newspaper in a week. _____

4 We can only recycle paper three times. _____

4 Write correct sentences.

1 Paper is made from cars.

Paper is made from trees.

2 When we recycle chocolate, we save trees.

3 At a paper recycling factory, machines cut the paper and put the pieces in pizzas.

4 Machines wash paper fibers to take out things like dogs and cats.

5 Every time we recycle paper, the fibers get bigger and stronger.

6 We will always need some new bottles to make paper.

5 Write ✓ or ✗.

Waste paper in my home comes from:

newspapers	☐	mail	☐
birthday cards	☐	drawing paper	☐
comic books	☐	writing paper	☐

5 Plastic

Read pages 12–13.

1 Write the words.

bottle phone car
toys refrigerator chair

1 _____

4 _____

2 _____

5 _____

3 _____

6 _____

2 Complete the sentences.

bottles decompose factory different clothes

1 No one really knows how long plastic takes to _____.

2 It's hard to sort the _____ types of plastic.

3 We can recycle plastic from things like _____.

4 We can use recycled plastic to make things like _____, phones, chairs, and toys.

5 At a plastic recycling _____, machines clean the plastic and cut it into small pieces.

3 Order the words.

1 materials. / other / newer than / Plastic is

Plastic is newer than other materials.

2 that recycle plastic. / many factories / There aren't

3 things like / bottles. / We can recycle / plastic from

4 different types / of plastic. / Different factories / recycle

5 clothes. / We can use / recycled plastic / to make

4 Number the sentences in order.

How Machines Recycle Plastic:

- [ ] They clean the plastic again.
- [ ] They cut the plastic into small pieces.
- [1] They clean the plastic.
- [ ] They melt the plastic.
- [ ] They cut the clean plastic into pellets.

6 Glass

Read pages 14–15.

1 Write the words.

machine hot melt magnet blow sand

1 _____

2 _____

3 _____

4 _____

5 _____

6 _____

2 Match.

1 Glass is	glass again and again.
2 People sort the glass	made from sand.
3 Machines break the glass	make new glass things.
4 When we make new glass from recycled glass	into small pieces.
5 People can recycle	we can save energy.
6 We use most recycled glass to	into different colors.

3 Write *true* or *false*.

1 To make glass, people make trees very, very hot. _____

2 Recycled glass doesn't have to get so hot to melt. _____

3 At a glass recycling factory, magnets take out any metal. _____

4 At a glass recycling factory, water blows off any plastic and paper. _____

5 It's good to recycle glass. _____

6 We can only recycle glass three times. _____

4 Complete the sentences.

energy sand pieces
recycled factory materials

1 Glass is made from _____.

2 When we make new glass from recycled glass, we save _____.

3 Glass is one of the best _____ for recycling.

4 We use most _____ glass to make new glass things.

5 At a glass recycling _____, machines break the glass into small _____.

7 Metal

Read pages 16–17.

1 Find and write the words.

m	a	l	u	m	i	n	u	m	e
e	a	o	b	a	r	s	o	h	n
t	t	o	n	p	u	s	e	r	e
a	h	r	r	o	c	k	s	n	r
l	o	n	o	n	b	l	u	p	g
s	t	p	l	o	n	e	e	n	y

1 It's good to recycle metals.

2 One type of metal is called _____.

3 When we recycle metals, we save _____.

4 Metals come from _____.

5 When something isn't cold it's _____.

6 One aluminum _____ makes lots of cans.

2 Complete the sentences.

energy different rocks recycle

1 There are lots of _____ metals.

2 Metals come from _____.

3 We save _____ when we recycle metal.

4 We can _____ metal again and again.

3 Order the words.

1 energy / metals. / We save / when we / recycle

_____

2 different metals / We recycle / different ways. / in

_____

3 is the metal / drinks cans. / Aluminum / in / most

_____

4 metals. / can / recycle / all / We

_____

5 are / Aluminum / big. / very / bars

_____

4 Answer the questions.

1 Where do metals come from?

_____

2 Why is metal a good material to recycle?

_____

3 What type of metal are most drinks cans made from?

_____

4 How do machines make aluminum bars?

_____

5 How many drinks cans can one aluminum bar make?

_____

8 Food Waste

Read pages 18–19.

1 Match. Then write sentences.

We can't eat	plants to grow.
In landfills	with our food waste.
We can reduce waste	food decomposes very slowly.
We can make compost	banana skins.
Compost helps	when we only buy the food that we need.

1 _____

2 _____

3 _____

4 _____

5 _____

2 Complete the chart.

	Breakfast	Lunch	Dinner
My Food Waste Today			

3 Write *true* or *false*.

1 In some countries, people throw away billions of metric tons of banana skins. _____

2 In landfills, there's no waste so food decomposes very slowly. _____

3 When we only buy food that we are going to eat, we reduce waste and save money. _____

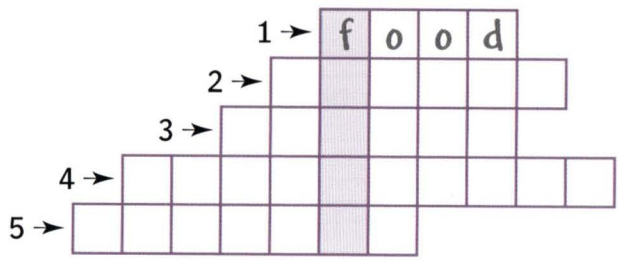
4 We can make compost with some of our food waste. _____

5 In many places, people collect food waste from homes, stores, and restaurants. _____

6 When food decomposes, it makes a gas that people can use to make electricity. _____

4 Complete the puzzle. Then find the secret word.

1 What we eat.
2 We can't eat the skin of this fruit.
3 Compost helps plants to grow here.
4 In landfills, food does this slowly.
5 We can make this with our food waste.



The secret word is: _____

9 Problems for Earth

Read pages 20–21.

1 Match. Then write sentences.

Glass is made from	oil.
Paper is made from	rocks.
Plastic is made from	sand.
Metal comes from	trees.

1 _____

2 _____

3 _____

4 _____

2 Find and write the words. Then write the odd one out.

oiltreesyellowproblemspollutionfactoriesenergywaste

1 _____ 5 _____

2 _____ 6 _____

3 _____ 7 _____

4 _____ 8 _____

The odd one out is: _____

3 Circle the odd one out.

1 oil (plastic) trees plants

2 dirty polluted sick future

3 waste air land water

4 machines factories animals landfills

4 Circle the correct words.

1 **Plants** / **Landfills** make pollution.

2 Pollution **is** / **isn't** a problem for Earth.

3 Polluted rivers can **kill** / **sick** plants and animals.

4 We need to use trees and oil carefully, so that we **can** / **can't** have them in the future.

5 Many factories use oil for the energy that makes **machines** / **people** work.

6 We are making too many **old** / **new** things.

5 Answer the questions.

1 What can make pollution?

_____

2 Why are polluted rivers a problem?

_____

3 Why do we need to use trees and oil carefully?

_____

10 What Can You Do?

Read pages 22–23.

1 Complete the chart.

~~cars~~ glass bottles
plastic bottles cars cans
newspapers birthday cards
computers plastic boxes

Things that you can recycle ...			
for plastic:	for paper:	for glass:	for metal:
cars			

2 Write correct sentences.

1 You can reduce your schools.

_____

2 Borrow a computer game from a cat.

_____

3 Fix things when they sing.

_____

4 Write things from waste.

_____

3 Write *reduce, reuse,* or *recycle.*

1 Fix things when they break. reduce

2 Make things from waste. _____

3 Use a water bottle again. _____

4 Don't buy too many new things. _____

5 Make compost for the garden. _____

4 Write the words.

1 reduce 2 _____ 3 _____ 4 _____

5 _____ 6 _____ 7 _____ 8 _____

5 Complete the sentences.

1 To reduce the waste that I make, I can _____

_____

2 To reuse more things, I can _____

_____

3 To recycle more things, I can _____

_____

A Recycling Poster

1 **Think about recycling. Write notes.**

Write eight things that we can recycle.

_____ _____ _____ _____

_____ _____ _____ _____

Write six things that we can make from recycled materials.

_____ _____ _____

_____ _____ _____

Why do we recycle waste?

Recycling is a good idea because _____

_____

_____

_____

2 **Make a poster. Write about recycling and add pictures.**

3 **Display your poster.**

Project 2 A Recycling Survey

1 Interview your friends and family.
Write ✓ or ✗.

	Name					
Do you recycle things made of paper?						
Do you recycle things made of plastic?						
Do you recycle things made of glass?						
Do you recycle things made of metal?						

2 What do people recycle? Count the answers and draw a graph.

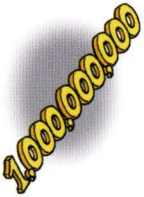
6				
5				
4				
3				
2				
1				
	paper	plastic	glass	metal

3 Copy the graph and write about your survey.

4 Display your survey.

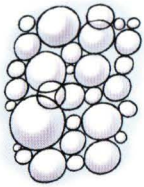
Picture Dictionary

batteries



billion

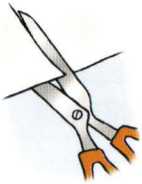
blow



bubbles

cans

clothes



cut

dangerous waste

dirty

Earth

electricity

factory

fibers

food

gas

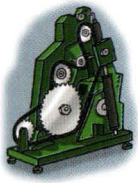
glass

ground

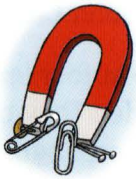
grow

ink

kill



machine



magnet

melt

metal

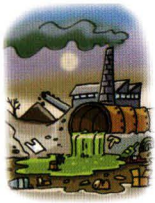
million

newspaper

oil

paper

plastic



pollution

recycle

refrigerator

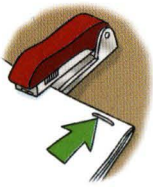
river

rocks

sand

soap

sort



staple

throw away

waste

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Discover! 4

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Fiona Undrill

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- **How long does plastic take to decompose?**

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Word count for this reader: 1,701

Level 3 600 headwords	Level 5 900 headwords
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